

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

114-0-13-1

Hanover

HNS.206

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 665 East Washington Street

Historic Name: Thomas and Ascenath Stetson
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1837

Source: White's History, Plan No. 5, Page 88

Style/Form: Federal/Cape

Architect/Builder: Thomas Stetson

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Relocated
from Winter Street in 1987, newer stairs to
entrance on east facade

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:**

1987
Acreage: .69 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-
family homes ranging from early eighteenth
century farmhouses to late twentieth century
suburban development on large lots which
includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees,
bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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East Washington Street

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house has retained its original rectangular form under a high, steeply sloping asphalt shingled gable roof. A large, nearly square corbeled brick chimney extends from the center of the roof ridge. On the north and south gable facades, the roof extends just beyond the walls and has narrow wood eaves and soffits above a thin, flat wood cornice running across the top of the façade. Each of the window frames has the same equal width of wood molding on all sides and projects out slightly beyond the wood clapboard facades. The facades also have narrow wood corner boards and an undecorated waterboard running around the lower edge of the building. The building has retained its original or early wood two-over-two double hung windows which are now installed behind storm windows. On the gable-ends, the roof ends flush with the facades with only a narrow band of wood trim surrounding the pediment that extends out slightly at each corner.

The house faces south towards the street and has a symmetrical front façade with two double hung windows to either side of the center entrance. The door is surrounded by tall pilasters that begin with wide bases and extend up into the cornice where the header projects out slightly above the door. Between the header and the door is a narrow transom with six rectangular panes. The door itself is a solid panel wood door that opens onto a narrow granite step into the yard.

On the west façade, two double hung windows are located in the gable-end over three unevenly spaced windows on the first floor. This same window configuration is seen on the east façade as well, with the exception that the middle window has been replaced with a door. The style of the door is not visible from the street. The door opens onto an unpainted wood landing with tall wood railings that extend down the steps on the east side of the landing.

The house is surrounded by evergreen bushes and foundation plantings, particularly on the west façade where much of the façade is hidden from view. An asphalt paved driveway to the east of the house leads from the street to a parking area next to the building. A fieldstone wall runs along the south property line in front of a row of screening trees and bushes. While the house is surrounded by an open grass lawn, the areas to the east, west, and north of the house is heavily wooded.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's *History of Hanson*, the structure at 665 East Washington Street was built on Winter Street in 1837 by Thomas Stetson (1804-1877), a millwright, for his own use as a home and at the time of White's writing in 1932 had been occupied by the Stetson and Clark families ever since. According to Local Historian Allan Clemons, the building was moved in 1987 to its current location. There are two properties listed under "T. Stetson" on the 1856 Walling Atlas—one on King Street northwest of E. Washington next to a brook and one north of E. Washington on Winter Street. The King Street property is known to have already been built by 1830

Continuation sheet 3

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because it shows up on the 1830 Smith Plan of Hanson, lending support to the assertion that the house moved from Winter Street. Thomas Stetson married Ascenath Bailey in Hanover in 1827.

The 1879 Walker Atlas shows T.G. Clark, Jr. as the owner—likely Thomas G. Clark Jr. (1831-1917), a shoemaker, who bought the house from Welthy Stetson and Betsy and James Nash in 1874.¹ Thomas Stetson gave the property to Betsy Nash and Welthy Stetson on April 5, 1859.² On the 1903 Richards Atlas, the site on Winter Street is owned by T. Clark and has a shop next to it. This fact supports White's History of Hanson, which notes that the store was built in 1886.³ Thomas G. Clark Jr. married Harriet H. Donaldson (1834-1908). Together they had several children, including a son, Everett, who took over his father's business. In the 1910 U.S. Census, Everett (1857-1945) was working as a laster in a shoe factory. Thomas G. Clark died on May 29, 1917 from gall bladder issues. White states that Everett E. Clark, likely Thomas Clark's son, was living in the house and operating his shop next door in the 1930s.

In 1930, Everett Clark sold the house to Ralph E. Derby. Ralph Derby was a tester for the Electric Light Company according to the 1940 U.S. Census when he and his family are listed at the house. It is not clear, however, how long the Derby's lived in the house or how the property ended up in the hands of Jean and Robert Richter, who owned the property when it was relocated in the 1980s. In 1987, the house was moved to its current location at 665 E. Washington Street—most likely by current owner Laura Calhoon and William Richter, who bought the property jointly in 1985 from William's parents, Robert and Jean Richter.⁴ Robert and Jean Richter lived next door at the house at 645 E Washington St.⁵ In 2016, the property transferred to Laura after the couple separated.⁶

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Obituaries, Burial information, and Family Trees, www.findagrave.com

Richards, L.J. *New Topographic Atlas of Plymouth County and Cohasset Town*, 1903. Town of Hanson, Plate 16. www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/9831/Hanson+Town++Pembroke+Town/Plymouth+County+and+Cohasset+Town+1903/Massachusetts/

Smith, J. Plan of Hanson. 1830. <http://usgenwebhansonma.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/1830hansonmap.jpg>

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 452, Page 169-170

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 297, Page 105-106.

³ In 1965, the store was torn down. When the house was moved in 1987, the store was gone.

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 6002, Page 341; <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=jean-c-richter&pid=142024686>

⁵ See 645 E Washington St. history

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 46653, Page 166

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Town of Hanson Assessor's database and property record cards, www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123

Town of Hanson Assessor's Records on Persons and Property, 1941-1970. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library.

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